

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS OF *Iris versicolor*

Height of 205 swamp plants	111.5 (75.8)	30.0 cm.
“ “ 220 bog plants	126.5 (82.7)	30.6 cm.
Width of leaves of 239 swamp plants	2.7 (1.9)	0.8 cm.
“ “ “ “ 237 bog plants	3.1 (1.8)	0.7 cm.
Depth of rhizome below surface, 103 swamp plants . . .	24.9 (10.7)	2.4 cm.
“ “ “ “ “ 62 bog plants	30.4 (12.3)	3.5 cm.
Thickness of outer wall of epidermis of 70 swamp plants .	11. (9.)	8. μ .
“ “ “ “ “ “ 55 bog plants	21. (19.)	17. μ .

JOHANN DAVID SCHÖPFF

A PIONEER OF AMERICAN BOTANICAL EXPLORATION

ADOLPH TOEPFFER

Johann David Schöpff was born on March 8, 1752, in Wunsiedel, Bavaria. After graduating from the gymnasium at Hof, he studied medicine at the University of Erlangen, specializing in botany and zoology.

Early in 1777 he accompanied a regiment of Bavarian soldiers to America as an army physician. While connected with an army hospital in New York he was able to make some studies on the plants of the vicinity, and conceived the plan of writing a Flora of the State of New York. Recently there has come to light the incomplete manuscript, entitled "*Index Plantarum Noveboracensium, quarum virtutes medicamentosa partim jamjam exploratae, partim adhuc explorandae,*" which describes some 790 species of phanerogams, identifying them with Linnean species and with the plants described by Cadwallader Colden in 1744. He also describes briefly various cryptogams lent him by another Hessian surgeon, Dr. von Wangenheim. Among these were 18 ferns, 28 mosses, 4 hepatics, 37 algae, and 18 fungi. The plants are all arranged according to the Linnean system, the descriptions being in Latin.

Among the localities where plants were collected are the following:—Mr. Bayard's House, Bloomendale, Bokram Mill, Bowery, Brooklyn, Bunkers Hill, Bushwick, Coldspring, Coler Ferry, Cuylers Hook, Derkers Ferry, Dennys Ferry, Elliot's House, Flatbush, Flatlands, Flushing, Flushing Fly, Fort George, Fort Kuyphausen, Gravesend, Greenwich, Huntington, Jamaica, Jerico, Jerusalem, Kingsbridge, Laurel Hill, Morris

Hill, Morrisiana, New Utrecht, Philips Manor, Red Hook, Sandy Hook, Staaten Island, Mr. Stuyvesant's Lands, Turtle Bay, Valentine's Hill, West Chester, Wolferts Hollow, Yellow Hook, and York Island.

When the truce was signed in 1783 he was discharged from the army and travelled through Pennsylvania, Maryland and the Carolinas. After a two month's rest in Charleston, he continued his travels to St. Johns and St. Augustine in East Carolina and thence to the Bahamas, studying the plants and animals of these regions.

In the fall of 1784 he returned to Europe in a small ship. In Bayreuth he secured an appointment as court and military surgeon. In 1787 he published his only botanical work, the *Materia Medica Americana*. The following year he published in two volumes a description of his travels; there were included many references to the climate, geology, plants and animals and to social and political conditions in the North American Republic. In succeeding years he published several small monographs on zoological topics, the most important being the Natural History of the Turtles.

It is to be regretted that the *Index Plantarum* was never finished. Numerous notes in ink and pencil on the manuscript show that Schöppf worked over it during later years, probably intending to publish it.

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BOOK REVIEW

LUMBER AND ITS USES*

The book describes briefly the structure of woods, illustrating the main types with photographs of microscopic sections. The physical properties of woods are given, with tables of the specific gravities, strength, elasticity, hardness, etc., of the important woods. Other chapters are devoted to lumber grades, standards of size, structural timbers, shipping, seasoning, and preserving woods. The chapter on paints and wood finishes are complete enough to enable the home builder to know what should be speci-

* Lumber and Its Uses, R. S. Kellogg, Revised by Franklin H. Smith, pp. 1-370, fig. 98, U. P. C. Book Co., New York, 1924. Price \$4.00.